



AAWRE Conducts Ethics Training Sessions at 2007 EWRI Congress

More than 100 professional engineers participated in the American Academy of Water Resources Engineers (AAWRE) special engineering ethics sessions the week of May 15-17, in Tampa, Florida. The Academy organized three 2-hour sessions during the 2007 EWRI Water and Environmental Engineering Congress to provide AAWRE Diplomates a convenient opportunity to fulfill their annual Professional Development Hours (PDH) renewal requirements.

The three identical sessions were held at the Tampa Marriott hotel and was presented by Steve K. Starrett, Ph.D., P.E., D.WRE, associate professor of civil and environmental engineering at Kansas State University. Professor Starrett specializes in the expertise of surface water hydrology, hydraulics, nutrient and pesticide transport, erosion control, and engineering ethics. Mr. Starrett owns his own firm, Starrett Engineering, LLC, and also serves as an expert witness. The welcome and introductions were facilitated by Frank Kim, the Academy's administrator for all three sessions.

The sessions conducted involved the case of an experienced water resources engineer that serves as an expert witness for a lake community that is upset about excessive erosion from upstream development. Many different ethical issues come up for the expert as he interacts with lake representatives, attorneys, EPA, state inspectors, developers, and engineers working for the developers. In each of the sessions, Professor Starrett presented the information and the session attendees gathered in groups to discuss each of the possible scenarios in the case. For more information regarding this ethics case, please contact Steve K. Starrett at steveks@ksu.edu.

AAWRE recommended that all session participants earned two Professional Development Hours (PDHs). AAWRE intends on organizing future engineering ethics sessions, as the ethics portion is a topic that is highly emphasized in the AAWRE's specialty certification program. For more information on AAWRE, please visit www.aawre.org.

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